

RESPONSE

Remark 1:

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 2 and canceled independent Claim 9. Applicant's amendment overcome the Examiner's previous rejections and render the claims allowable.

Remark 2:

Applicant hereby requests Examiner withdraw Meltzer as a reference under 35 USC Section 103(a). Meltzer teaches nothing more than a tool for allowing a legal services provider obtain client information and generate forms used by the immigration and naturalization agency for filing by the legal service provider. Meltzer does not teach the use of a core system having various subsystems and interfaces for permitting an applicant or other user to automatically access the system, obtain information about what procedures and documents are required, input the necessary information, generate electronic forms and file the forms automatically. Meltzer is a tool for use by conventional legal service providers, whereas the present invention provides a way to avoid the use of a conventional legal services provider.

Remark 3:

Key distinctions between the present invention and Meltzer are again brought to the Examiner's attention:

1. Meltzer does not teach the use of a core system having an e-filing interface, nor does Meltzer suggest or anticipate electronic filing of immigration documents with the government agency. Rather, the teaching of Meltzer is replete with references to retaining a legal service provider, providing information to an attorney, making an attorney's office more efficient, etc. Meltzer clearly stops short of allowing a user to completely avoid the use of the conventional legal services provider.
2. At column 12, lines 39-55, Meltzer merely discusses a system for gathering data

necessary for filing visa or other INS forms, Meltzer is totally silent to electronic submission of electronic documents to a governmental immigration agency;

3. It would not be obvious to modify the teaching of Meltzer to provide a method and system for completely eliminating the use of a conventional legal service provider. Not only does Meltzer actually teach the use of a conventional legal service provider, but the object of the Meltzer patent "is to enable an attorney to administer a plurality and variety of matters". The present invention is directed to a completely different problem, i.e., obtaining legal services *without* the use of a conventional legal services provider.
4. Meltzer does not provide a turn-key solution for filing immigration and naturalization without an attorney. Meltzer does not provide an interface with the government agency. Meltzer does not provide a set of forms for an applicant to file electronically or physically, along with a set of instructions for filing supporting documentation which may also be needed. The basic system taught by Meltzer is fundamentally unable to handle the increased functionality of the present invention.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that for all the foregoing reasons, the claimed subject matter describes patentable invention. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the specification is adequate and that the claims are now in a condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered.

Applicant hereby respectfully requests Examiner to withdraw the cited references as anticipating or obviating prior art, enter these amendments, find them descriptive of useful, novel and non-obvious subject matter, and authorize the issuance of a utility patent for the truly meritorious, deserving invention disclosed and claimed herein.

Without further, Applicant does not intend to waive any claims, arguments or defenses that they may have in response to any official or informal communication, paper, office action, or otherwise, and they expressly reserve the right to assert any traverse, additional grounds establishing specificity and clarity, enablement, novelty, uniqueness, non-obviousness, or other patentability, etc.

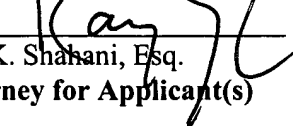
Further, nothing herein shall be construed as establishing the basis for any prosecution history or file wrapper estoppel, or similar in order to limit or bar any claim of infringement of the invention, either directly or under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

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Respectfully submitted,

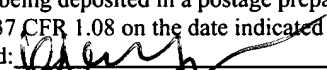
Dated: April 19, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents attached hereto are being deposited in a postage prepaid, sealed envelope with the United States Postal Service using First Class Mail service under 37 CFR 1.08 on the date indicated and is addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450". Signed: 

Date Mailed: April 19, 2005.